

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 01585 031236Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 /102 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6926

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 1585

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, GB, KS, US, UN

SUBJ: KEY ISSUES AT UNGA

REF: STATE 225930 AND 229493

SUMMARY: GOG FONMIN OKUMBA CREDITS USG WITH HAVING
ESTABLISHED "RELAXED" ATMOSPHERE AT UNGA, PROMISED HOLD
FIRM ON KOREA, AND SAID USG CAN "COUNT ON" GABON TO DO
BETTER IF FUTURE IF PUERTO RICAN ISSUE RAISED IN INTER-
NATIONAL FORUM. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ACCORDANCE REFTELS, I CALLED ON FONMIN OKUMBA
OCTOBER 2 TO REVIEW OVERALL UNGA SITUATION AND KEY ISSUES
OF KOREA AND PUERTO RICO.

2. OKUMBA OPENED CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL OBSERVATION
THAT HE EXPECTS MINIMAL CONFRONTATION AND TENSION AT UNGA.
"RELAXED" ATMOSPHERE, HE SAID, IS DUE LARGELY TO NEW
USG POSTURE SIGNALLED IN SECRETARY'S SPEECH TO SPECIAL
SESSION AND REAFFIRMED IN SUBSEQUENT ADDRESS TO REGULAR
SESSION AND TOAST TO OAU REPS. HE
WELCOMED MORE FORTHCOMING USG ATTITUDE VIS-A-VIS LDCS,
AND INDICATIONS THAT AFRICAN PROBLEMS NOW RECEIVING
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PAGE 02 LIBREV 01585 031236Z

HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION THEY MERIT.

3. OKUMBA EXPRESSED HOPE THAT KOREAN ISSUE, ON WHICH GOG IS CO-SPONSOR OF FRIENDLY RESOLUTION, WOULD TURN OUT WELL. I STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF HOLDING FIRM ON ITS BASIC PRINCIPLES, BUT ESSENTIALLY WAS PREACHING TO CONVERTED.

4. TURNING TO PUERTO RICO, I EMPHASIZED TO OKUMBA HOW STRONGLY USG FEELS ABOUT NAC RESOLUTION AND SIMILAR ACTS OF BLATANT INTERFERENCE IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS, ESPECIALLY SINCE THESE FLY IN FACE OF FACTS CONCERNING PUERTO RICO (WHICH I REVIEWED FOR HIM IN DETAIL). I EXPRESSED OUR HOPE THAT ISSUE WOULD NOT ARISE AT UNGA, AND MADE CLEAR THAT WE WOULD COUNT ON OUR FRIENDS TO STAND BY US IN EVENT PUERTO RICO WERE RAISED.

5. OKUMBA, WHO SEEMED GENUINELY UNINFORMED ON TRUE SITUATION OF PUERTO RICO, WAS DEFENSIVE ABOUT NAC RESOLUTIONS. SOMETIMES, HE SAID LAMELY, DELEGATIONS ARE CAUGHT BY SURPRISE WHEN QUESTIONS ARE RAISED FOR WHICH THEY ARE UNPREPARED. NAC RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS INTRODUCED WITHOUT ADVANCE WARNING BY COUNTRIES WHICH FLET STRONGLY ABOUT IT, AND NO ONE WAS EITHER EQUIPPED TO OPPOSE IT OR WILLING TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF THIS POTENTIALLY DIVISIVE MATTER. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF PUERTO RICO, AND PROMISED THAT USG COULD "COUNT ON US" IN FUTURE.

6. OKUMBA REAFFIRMED THAT HE HAS NO PRESENT PLANS TO ATTEND UNGA PERSONALLY, AND EXPRESSED REGRET THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN PRESENT IN NEW YORK FOR SECRETARY'S DINNER. HE STILL HOPES TO PAY AT LEAST BRIEF VISIT TO NEW YORK BEFORE UNGA ENDS, BUT CONCLUDED WITH OBSERVATION THAT GOG DELEGATION CAN SAFELY BE LEFT IN HANDS OF PERMREP IN VIEW OF "RELAXED" ATMOSPHERE TO WHICH USG HAS MADE SUCH MAJOR CONTRIBUTION. STEIGMAN

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